

March 8, 1976

CLERK: Motion on the desk, Mr. President.

PRESIDENT: Read the motion.

CLERK: (Read F. Lewis amendment found on page 990 of the Journal).

PRESIDENT: Senator Frank Lewis.

SENATOR F. LEWIS: Mr. Chairman, this was the bill that the Labor Committee heard. I understand Senator Schmit's motivation for placing it here. I'm disappointed he didn't take the recommendation of the Labor Committee, because we moved and amended the Schmit bill to include \$5 million. If Senator Schmit is serious about the proposal then we have to have the money to finance it. Two million dollars for an \$80 a week would only take care of about 4700 employees. I want you to understand that the cities would welcome this. The City of Bellevue just lost a lot of people under the Man Power Act; in fact we lost about, effective June 1, about 10 percent of our employees. They were under that comprehensive act. Two million dollars will not finance what Senator Schmit proposes, I don't believe. It's conjecture on my part what would happen and conjecture on his the chaos that we would create if we made this a part of the law and did not fund it. I'm prepared to support the Schmit amendment. I am prepared only to support it if we finance it to the level we need to. I think it's an excellent idea that people are not employed and there's not work available, you can find other work for them in terms of public service work. We're going to get in another box here like we've been on some other legislation where we passed a bill and then we don't put enough money into it. Let me ask you these questions: what happens if six months down the road that we run out of that \$2 million? What's going to occur then? What's going to be the position of the state? The Department of Labor going to be in a position to do deficit financing? Do they go ahead and pay and come back for a deficiency? I think if you have some serious intent about the bill the serious thing you have to do is see that it's financed. Five million dollars will take care of about 12,000 people on unemployment for 52 weeks. We currently are running at a rate of about 40,000 people, as I understand. That's assuming one out of every four would use this particular approach. We'd need, at a minimum, \$5 million. I think if you're seriously considering the amendment then you have to seriously consider the financing. I don't think Senator Schmit would disagree with that. The Labor Committee didn't disagree with that. Had you had the bill before you now that the Labor Committee introduced it would have the \$5 million figure in there. I'd ask you to adopt \$5 million instead of the \$2 million.

PRESIDENT: Senator Mills, do you want to speak to the Lewis amendment? Senator Kelly, do you want to speak to the Lewis amendment? The ques.... Senator DeCamp, do you want to speak to the Lewis amendment?